

IOWA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Meeting Minutes January 21, 2005

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Allan Axeen – HACAP
Ann Brown – Department of Corrections
Amy Correia – Iowa Coalition against
Domestic Violence
Nelson DeLaVergne – Salvation Army
Dennis Dietz – Iowa Finance Authority
Kelli Foltz – YMCA
Diane Foss – Department of Economic
Development
Mario Hayslett – Hansen House of Hospitality
Ann Hearn – Linn County Community Services
Stefani Hicok – Cedar Valley Friends of the
Family
Kelli Foltz – YMCA
Doug Keast – Workforce Development
Anne Kinzel (Vice Chair) – Department
of Public Health

Amy Knudsen – Iowa Coalition for Housing
and the Homeless
Alice Mollett – Crossroads Women’s Shelter
Ray Morley – Department of Education
Patrick Nestvedt – Catholic Charities
Patrick Palmersheim – Veterans Affairs
Nicki Stajcar – Department of Elder Affairs
Patrick O’Brien – Olmstead Real Choices
Consumer Task Force
Kate Ridge – (Secretary) John Lewis Coffee
Shop
Janell Staats- MATURA Action Corporation
Judy Songer – SIEDA Community Action
Lila Starr – Department of Human Services
Donald Tyne – Linn County Veterans
Affairs
Dean Wright – (Chair) Drake University and
Des Moines Area Religious Council

OTHERS PRESENT

Donna Anthony – Senator Harkin’s Office
Carol Behrer – Youth Policy Institute
Krista Bowersox – HUD
Joan Christensen – Broadlawns Medical Center
Karin Curtis – Social Security Administration
David Eberbach – Iowa Institute of Community
Alliances
Julie Eberbach – Iowa Institute of Community
Alliances
Kim Gunnes – Young Women’s Resource
Center
Trish Harlow – Iowa Homeless Youth Center
Linda Homan – Linn County General
Assistance
Angie Hendrick – PATH Program, Abbe
Center for Community Mental Health
Janine Johnson – Quad Cities Shelter and
Transitional Housing Council
Andrea Jones – Family Violence Center

Ellen Mathes – Veterans Administration
Kim McLaughlin – Project Concern
Robert Milinsky – Youth and Shelter Services
Eileen Mitchell – Iowa Institute for Community
Alliances
Dave Mueterthies – Black Hawk/Grundy
Mental Health PATH Program
Matt Otte – Community Mental Health
PATH Program
Krystal Salvador – Gannon Center
Carrie Slagle – Waypoint Madge Phillips
Center
Paul Stanfield – Home Connection
Robert Steben – Veterans Affairs
Joey Van Zomoren – Northern Lights
Homeless Shelter
Rose Wazny – Department of Economic
Development
Kent Whitmore – Broadlawns Homeless
Mental Health Center

STAFF

Lyle Schwery – Homeless Programs Coordinator, Iowa Finance Authority

Welcome/Introduction

Chair Wright called to order the January 21, 2005 meeting of the Iowa Council on Homelessness at 10:03 a.m. Introductions were made by those participating via the ICN sites and those present in person.

ICN Etiquette

Mr. Lyle Schwery gave a brief explanation on the use of the ICN network with emphasis on proper use of the microphones and recognition from the Chair before speaking. He asked anyone with a cell phone or beeper to use the silent mode during the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

January 21, 2005

Chair Wright introduced the agenda for the January 21, 2005 meeting. There being no additions or corrections to the agenda, Chair Wright called for a motion of approval.

MOTION: Ms. Foss made a motion to approve the agenda for the January 21, 2005 meeting as presented. On a second by Ms. Knudsen, the agenda for the January 21, 2005 meeting was unanimously approved by the Council.

Approval of Minutes

November 19, 2004

Chair Wright introduced the minutes for November 19, 2004 meeting. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, Chair Wright called for a motion of approval.

MOTION: Ms. Foss made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2004 meeting. On a second by Mr. Nestvedt, the minutes of the November 19, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved by the Council.

Executive Committee Meeting Report

Chair Wright reported the Executive Committee has not met since the last meeting of the Council but has been facilitating meetings with all subcommittees that were formed at past meetings have meet.

Discharge Policy/Re-Entry Ad-Hoc Committee

Chair Wright asked Ms. Carol Behr, co-chair to report on the activities of the Discharge Policy/Re-entry Ad Hoc Committee. She reported the committee has met twice since the last Council meeting. She stated during the last calendar year a survey was developed and distributed to key state agencies on their current policies related to discharge planning. Ms. Behr said several surveys have been received and reminders have been sent to those agencies that have not yet responded. She said a sub committee of the committee will meet again on February 10, 2005 and the committee will meet on February 23, 2005 with recommendations to the Council at the March 18, 2005 meeting.

Policy and Public Awareness Committee Meeting Report

In Ms. Canganelli's absence, Mr. Lyle Schwery made the Policy and Public Awareness Committee Meeting Report to the Council. He stated the intent of the committee is to hold a meeting to discuss the ten year plan to end chronic homelessness.

A general discussion followed regarding the contents of the ten year plan.

Mr. Morley inquired as to the status of local homeless coordinating Boards.

Mr. Schwery stated a new contact list is currently in the process of formulation. He said as one of the Council's roles, technical assistance will be provided to those communities.

Mr. Morley suggested it would be helpful to school liaisons to have contacts in their communities.

Ms. Knudsen stated as part of the Coalition's technical assistance grant from HUD, the Coalition has worked with many communities and their local homeless coordinating Boards. She said her office will work with Mr. Schwery to update the contact list.

Research and Analysis Committee Meeting Report

Mr. Axeen reported on the Point in Time Survey which is due on February 25, 2005. He asked Mr. Schwery to update the Council.

Mr. Schwery stated he has answered various inquiries regarding the Point in Time Survey.

Mr. Axeen reported on the status of the current study on Homelessness.

Chair Wright reported the subcommittee has met with the contracting group.

Mr. Morley reported the strategies and methodologies are currently in the process of formulation as well as the potential use of the HMIS System. He said the use of Project Easier, a data collection system implemented by the Department of Education, is also currently in the process of evaluation for ease of use. Mr. Morley said once the data collection systems have been evaluated a survey will be formulated to collect only the data needed to complete the study.

Continuum of Care Committee Meeting Report

Ms. Knudsen reported the Continuum of Care Committee has met several times since the last Council meeting. She said the membership of the committee was expanded with the addition of Mr. Craig Moser with the Northeast Iowa Community Action and Janell Stat with MATURA Community Action to serve on the project review team. Ms. Knudsen said the membership was expanded to include non-service providers who will impartially review the applications. She reported the committee is recommending following the same review process used by HUD. Ms. Knudsen said a score sheet will be compiled and compared to the HUD score sheet in the Super NOFA. She stated the total continuum of care application score is sixty points. Ms. Knudsen briefly explained the bonus points available; permanent housing, underserved areas, and underserved/special needs populations.

MOTION: Ms. Knudsen made a motion to approve the score sheet which will eliminate the five bonus points for underserved/special needs and instead use those bonus points for projects which serve the chronic homeless, keeping in line with HUD's current focus on that population. On a second by Mr. Hayslett, the Council unanimously approved the score sheet with five bonus points for projects which serve the chronic homeless.

A general discussion followed regarding projects which serve persons with special needs and the application process.

Additional discussion followed regarding HUD's scoring process.

Mr. Schwery clarified the Council's action on the scoring process is to determine the Council's priority and the use of the resources available.

MOTION: Ms. Ridge made a motion to postpone the vote on the motion regarding the HUD score sheet to the March meeting of the Council. A vote was taken with the following results. YES: all with the exception of Ms. Foss, Mr. Hayslett, and Mr. Morley. On a second by Ms. Hearn, the Council approved the motion to postpone Council action on the HUD score sheet.

It was agreed written documents on the Continuum of Care will be made available to the Council members by February 10, 2005 to be distributed via email and posted on the Authority's web site. Ms. Knudsen said if another meeting is needed the information will be made available by February 24, 2005. She asked the Council members to address questions or concerns to Mr. Schwery.

Ms. Knudsen reported the funds from the Continuum of Care have not been released. She said many programs are facing financial difficulty due to the lack of funds. Ms. Knudsen suggested the drafting of a letter of concern to the Congressional Delegation and if the funds have not yet been distributed by January 28, 2005, to include a letter to Governor Vilsack.

Chair Wright agreed to draft the letter with the assistance of Mr. Schwery and stated no motion would be needed to draft the letter of support.

Ms. Foss suggested the inclusion of a discussion of the current administration's budget be added to the Council's March meeting agenda.

Mr. Schwery asked everyone on the Council that has been funded by a Continuum of Care grant to contact him directly. He said this will allow for a rough estimate of the funding available for new projects in the next funding round.

Nominating Committee Meeting Report

Ms. Starr said the nominating committee will meet prior to the March council meeting. She asked for members of the Council to assist with the active recruitment of membership outside of central Iowa. Ms. Starr said she would like to see additional membership across the geographical region of the state.

State Program Review Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Schwery said an inventory of services and funding across the state for programs available to the homeless will be taken. He explained according to the Executive Order the Council is charged with the review of programs and services available to the homeless to ensure the best use of funds is made.

HMIS Report

Mr. Eberbach said the Point in Time Survey is due on February 25, 2005 and those agencies that currently use Service Point may use that to complete the survey. He said the AHAR assessment is due on March 1, 2005 which is a sample study on the number of homeless across the nation.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Ms. Starr reported on the status of letters of support to be sent to the Congressional delegation. She stated she will obtain additional supporting information from her colleagues.

Announcements

Ms. Correia reported the Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence and the Iowa Coalition against Sexual Assault will hold a lobby day on February 22, 2005 at the State Capitol.

Ms. Starr reported Mental Health Awareness Day will be held at the State Capitol on February 22, 2005. She said a state wide training will be held on March 10, 2005 related to mental health and substance abuse issues in disasters and crisis. Ms. Starr stated training will be conducted on 35 ICN sites for six consecutive Thursdays from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m. She said additional information is available on the website: iowacrisistraining.com

Mr. Hayslett inquired if anyone had information available for individuals recently released from incarceration who are unable to work.

Several suggestions were made including the initiation of application for disability benefits before the release date and the possible revision of program requirements.

Ms. Anthony with Senator Harkin's office suggested letters sent to the Congressional Delegation be sent via email to the Washington office, but mailed to the home office. She said the mail is frequently delayed by as much as five weeks or more.

The next regular meeting of the Iowa Council on Homelessness will be March 18, 2005 at 10:00 am with the ICN sites to be announced.

Adjournment

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Palmersheim and a second by Ms. Foss.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2005.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Vicky Winter, Legal Secretary
Iowa Finance Authority

Kate Ridge, Secretary
Iowa Council on Homelessness